

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/454,865	TANIGUCHI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Carl Colin	2136	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/7/2006 and phone conversation on 9/12/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-17, 20, 24, 26 and 27.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

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|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date <u>9/7/2006</u></li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application</li> <li>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date <u>20060913</u>.</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

**NASSER MOAZZAM**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

*9, 13, 06*

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 7/12/2006 was filed after the mailing date of the Non-Final Rejection on 5/30/2006 and resubmitted on 9/7/2006. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. In a phone interview held on 8/31/2006, applicant clarifies that the English-language in the Foreign Office action provides a separate statement of relevance regarding the non-English publication "Next Generation Logistic System Using Non-Contact IC Technology" by Hitachi Hyoron. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daniel Tanner III on September 12, 2006. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 21, 22, 23, and 25 are cancelled.

In claim 24, first line, after "A computer program product" insert the phrase "recorded on a computer-readable medium".

*Reasons for Allowance*

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record US Patent 5,117,096 to Bauer et al teaches a system for the control and monitoring of the distribution of goods. A first unit, a control and monitoring unit, is mounted with the goods to be distributed or with the transport container and accompanies the goods throughout the distribution process. Access to this unit is possible by means of a programmable memory card as a second unit in such a manner that it is ensured that only authorized persons obtain access to the data of all units. A third unit, the analysis unit reads data stored in the memory card and updated by communication with the control and monitoring unit and summarizes it to form a log of the distribution process. US Patent Publication US 2002/0013898 to Sudia et al discloses a multi-step signing system and method using multiple devices to affix a single signature which can be verified using a single public verification key. The full signature is not completed until all or some quorum of the signing devices have signed. The prior arts of record, however, fail to teach singly or in combination "an information generating unit that processes the information to be stored in the data carrier, the data carrier being an electronic tag, and a signature part that generates the digital signature for the information generated by the distribution information generating part; a signature key use limit information storage part that stores a signer key use limit information to indicate whether the signature key information is already used; wherein the information generating unit has a signature key use limit information storage part that limits a specified number of times for signatures performed using the signature key, the signature key information selection part does not select signature key information used more than a specified number of times for signature," as recited in the independent claims 1, 20, 24, 26, and 27.

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Consequently claims 1, 20, 24, 26, and 27 are allowable over the prior arts of record. Claims 2, 3, 5-17 are directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 1, and therefore are also allowable over the prior arts of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carl Colin whose telephone number is 571-272-3862. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8:00-6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser G. Moazzami can be reached on 571-272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

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system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CC

Carl Colin  
Patent Examiner  
September 13, 2006

**NASSER MOAZZAMI**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

9/13/06